



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
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Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Riverside Police Department Partner with Ralphs Grocery Company to Combat Organized Retail Crime

RIVERSIDE, CA – In June 2014, the Riverside Police Department East NPC Investigations along with the Organized Retail Crime Division of Ralphs Grocery Company began conducting an investigation to combat retail theft. Ralphs began investigating large scale thefts that totaled over \$1 million in missing product. Detectives and Organized Retail Crime (ORC) investigators formulated an investigative strategy and discovered several employees were conspiring in an ongoing scheme to financially benefit from organized retail theft from within the facility.

The joint investigation led to the issuance of search warrants for multiple residences that were owned by employees of the Ralphs Grocery Distribution Center in Riverside. The results of the search warrants revealed over \$20,000 in stolen product in the residence of one of the employees. Further investigation revealed an online business responsible for over \$80,000 in sales of stolen Ralphs product in a 60 day period.

Organized Retail Crime is responsible for an estimated \$32 billion loss to retailers per year in the United States. This long term investigation was an excellent example of the Law Enforcement and Organized Retail Crime partnerships in an effort to combat ORC and to protect and serve the City of Riverside and its businesses.



On February 11, 2015, Riverside Police Department arrested Dean Thompson, age 34 from Temecula, CA, Froilan Garcia, age 57 from Romoland, CA, and Charles Cherry, age 48, from Colton, CA for multiple theft and embezzlement charges.

If you have additional information concerning this investigation and/or crimes similar in nature, you are encouraged to contact case agent Officer S. Ontko at (951) 826-5638.